

Appl. No. 10/811,695
Docket No. 9595
Response dated August 21, 2007
In response to Office Action mailed on December 22, 2006
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A unitary disposable absorbent article, comprising:
an absorbent core having a garment-facing surface and a body-facing surface;
a liquid permeable topsheet positioned adjacent said body-facing surface of said absorbent core;
a liquid impermeable backsheet positioned adjacent said garment-facing surface of said absorbent core; said backsheet having:
~~a physical variation along at least one axis, wherein said physical variation defines a first backsheet zone with a first particular basis weight, and~~
~~a second backsheet zone, longitudinally outboard from the first backsheet zone, with a second particular basis weight that is less than the first particular basis weight, wherein said physical variation is a measurable difference, wherein said physical variation is measured by a physical property selected from the group consisting of basis weight, thickness, density and tensile modulus;~~
at least one elastomeric element having at least one primary direction of stretch, said elastomeric element at least partially overlapping and joined to said second backsheet zone;
a first stretch region having lateral stretch; and
a second stretch region having lateral stretch; wherein said first stretch region is configured to co-elongate with said second stretch region.
2. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein a relaxed pathlength of said elastomeric element in the primary direction of stretch is less than a total pathlength of said backsheet in the region of overlap[;].

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3. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said first stretch region is said second backsheet zone.
4. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said second stretch region is at least one ear.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 5 including a longitudinal axis, wherein said first backsheet zone and said second backsheet zone partially overlap said longitudinal axis.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said article further comprises:
 - a front waist region;
 - a back waist region, said front and back waist regions being located at opposite ends of said article, said front and back waist regions generally encircling a waist of a wearer when said article is worn;
 - a crotch region, said crotch region being located intermediate to said front and back waist regions, said crotch region extending longitudinally between said front and back waist regions, said crotch region generally positioned between a pair of legs of a wearer; and
 - a buttocks region, said crotch region being located intermediate to said front and back waist regions, said buttocks region being located near a proximal end of said back waist region,wherein said first backsheet zone is disposed primarily in said crotch region and said front waist region, wherein said second backsheet zone is at least partially disposed in said back waist region.

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9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said article further comprises:
 - a front waist region;
 - a back waist region, said front and back waist regions being located at opposite ends of said article, said front and back waist regions generally encircling a waist of a wearer when said article is worn;
 - a crotch region, said crotch region being located intermediate to said front and back waist regions, said crotch region extending longitudinally between said front and back waist regions, said crotch region generally positioned between a pair of legs of a wearer; and
 - a buttocks region, said crotch region being located intermediate to said front and back waist regions, said buttocks region being located near a proximal end of said back waist region,wherein said first backsheet zone is disposed primarily in said crotch region and said front waist region, wherein said second backsheet zone is at least partially disposed in said buttocks region.
10. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric element is non-linear in shape.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein ~~said selected physical property is basis weight, wherein said physical variation is measured as a ratio such that said ratio of the second particular basis weight of said second backsheet zone to the first particular basis weight in said first backsheet zone is at least 0.6.~~
13. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein a ratio of the relaxed pathlength of said elastomeric element to a total pathlength of said backsheet within said second backsheet zone in a joined area is less than about 0.8.

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14. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 1 further comprising wherein the backsheet has a third backsheet zone, longitudinally outboard from the first backsheet zone and longitudinally inboard to the second backsheet zone, with a third particular basis weight that is less than the first particular basis weight having a value for said physical property that is different than a corresponding value for said first and second backsheet zone.
15. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 14 wherein the third particular basis weight that is less than the second particular basis weight—said physical variation is such that said third backsheet zone has a higher value than said first backsheet zone and said second backsheet zone.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 14 further comprising a second elastomeric element at least partially overlapping and joined to said third backsheet zone, wherein a relaxed pathlength of said elastomeric element in the primary direction of stretch is less than a total pathlength of said backsheet in the region of overlap.
18. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 17 wherein said second elastomeric element is non-linear.
19. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said article may be selected from the group consisting of a disposable diaper, a catamenial and an adult incontinence product.
20. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said disposable diaper is a pant.